

made out, all different from the *Acipenser*, that of the North Sea, and that last year a new genus was discovered in Dalmatia. In fact, the extent of the rivers and lakes, and the variety of climates and situation in the Austrian monarchy, probably make it the richest country in freshwater ichthyology in Europe. Nearly one hundred species have been made out, and are on the point of being made known to the public, by M. Heckel, to whose zeal and intelligence the science will be deeply indebted. The genera and species which have not been figured elsewhere are given with a degree of accuracy which it is impossible to excel, and which will form an epoch in designing.

The figures are drawn by a sort of pantograph, of M. Heckel's own invention, which performs its office with a minute precision I believe hitherto unknown, especially for the details of the scales. The more common species are given simply in outline, and the work, which is far advanced, is of extraordinary low price.

XXVIII.—*Information respecting Zoological and Botanical Travellers.*

PRIVATE letters from Demerara, of date 18th of August, inform us of the return of Mr. Schomburgk in safety from his first expedition. That gentleman writes, "The object of my last journey was to mark the boundary between British and Venezuelan Guiana, and in this object I have succeeded; but with regard to scientific researches, very little has been done. We had the most unfavourable weather; rain every day, and the rivers having inundated their banks contributed to our ill success. My brother is just about to despatch to Berlin such collections as he has made, viz. 220 species of birds, 800 insects, and 288 species of plants, with about 200 different objects in spirits."

"I procured" (he continues) "today a skin of that scarce animal the Black Tiger, *Felis nigra*; it is unfortunately much mutilated by the Indian who shot it, the tail and legs being cut off; bad as it is, it is another proof of the existence of that animal, of which we possess such uncertain knowledge. The skin measures from the nose to the insertion of the tail 4 feet 5 inches; at first sight the colour appears a glossy black; but on inspecting it closer, it will be observed that the ground-colour is a dark brown, covered with a number of spots of a shining jet, which are closer to each other than I have observed in any of the American *Felinae*. These dark spots, which are of a less size than a shilling, extend still closer from the eyes to the region of the shoulders. On the abdomen and interior of the thighs the colour is lighter, and a slight admixture of strong white hairs is observed. To judge from the length of the skin, the animal it came from must have been approaching in size the greater Jaguar. I have

a skin of the latter before me, which measures from the nose to the tail 4 feet 5 inches, the width of the skin being 2 feet 8 inches; while that of the Black Tiger, which is half an inch less in size, measures in width 2 feet 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This may arise from the skin being more stretched; it proves nevertheless the strong make of the animal. I do not observe the tawny spot above each eye mentioned in my description of a skin from a similar animal given in the 'Annals' (iv. p. 325); this spot may vanish with the more advanced age of the animal."

The next journey which our traveller, at the date of his letters, was about to undertake, would last for a period of from eighteen months to two years, the expedition proposing to winter at Pirara.

Mr. Forbes.—Letters received from Mr. Forbes, dated Paros, Sept. 26th, inform us that he is successfully prosecuting his investigations among the Greek islands.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

A Manual of the British Algæ. By William Henry Harvey, Esq. London, 1841. 8vo. Van Voorst.

WE hail with pleasure another of Mr. Van Voorst's excellent publications on natural history—A 'Manual of the British Algæ,' by Mr. Harvey. The author remarks in the Introduction, p. 53,

"The want of a work in the English language, entirely devoted to the British Algæ, in which fuller descriptions should be given than the scope of Hooker's 'British Flora' admitted of, and in which all the known species should be included, has long been felt by lovers of this branch of botany. Had my friend Dr. Greville completed, as was once his intention, his admirable 'Algæ Britannicæ,' no room would have been left for my humble labours, nor should I for a moment wish to take the subject out of such able hands. But his work unfortunately stopped short with the '*inarticulate*' tribes, nor has he at present any intention of resuming it. The task has consequently fallen on my shoulders, and my object will be gained and my ambition fully satisfied, if, in the following pages, I have succeeded in affording any assistance to the researches of my fellow-students. I could have wished, and indeed had intended, that the work should be illustrated with figures, at least of the genera; but my limited stay in Europe did not afford time to prepare them, and it does not now appear desirable to delay the publication till they could be got ready. However they might have added to the beauty of the book, the student will experience little loss by their omission who takes this MANUAL for what I wish it to be, a companion to the '*ALGÆ DAMNONIENSES, published and sold by Mary Wyatt, dealer in shells, Torquay*;' a most important work, now extending to four volumes, with a Supplement, composed of *specimens* of 234 species, beautifully dried and correctly named. These volumes furnish the student with a help, such as no figures, however correctly executed, can at all equal—Nature's own pencil illustrating herself."

Mr. Harvey's Manual is got up in the style and typography of the 'English Flora' of Sir J. E. Smith, and will range with it as a supplementary volume.

That a work such as the one now before us, embodying all the species added to our catalogue since the publication of the 2nd vol.